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POPULATION TODAY

Vol. 17, No. 7/8 July/August 1989

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It is mankind's manifest destiny to colonize this galaxy.
– President Reagan, September 22, 1988

Is it? Now there's a nice, hot-weather question to while away this summer's "dog days." Even a Hudson Institute researcher once posited scenarios of people living off the Earth that ranged anywhere from 16,000 population by A.D. 2150 to a mind-boggling 4.5 billion.

But urgent scientific or "colonial" reasons aside, there is surely no pressing *population* reason to ship human beings en masse into the firmament. By many projections, earthly population growth is liable to fall from the present 255,000 per day to something closer to zero per day sometime around 2150.

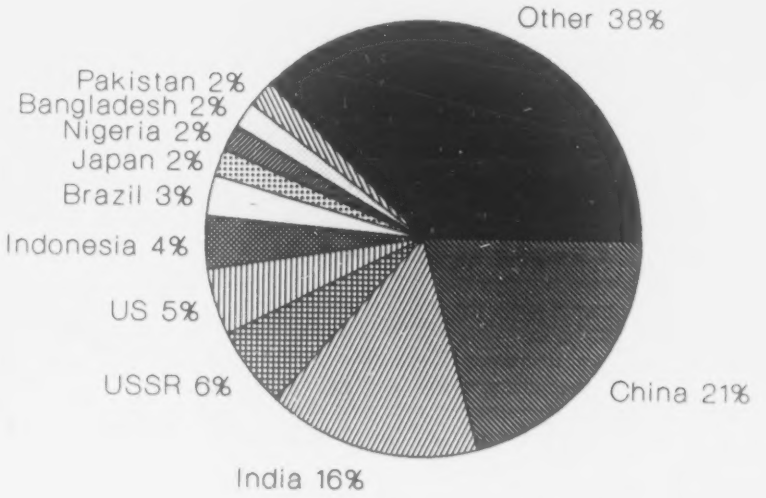
By that time humanity is expected to level off at perhaps 11 billion. Whether the world can or cannot sustain that many people on a practical, prosperous basis remains to be seen, though we shall all hope so. Coping with a world population that size is a challenge which will have to be met and overcome long before large-scale extraterrestrial emigration is likely to become a feasible proposition.

In short, our earthly problems will have to be solved right here on Earth. So what else is new?

– Art Haupt

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

The World's Top 10, plus "Other"



The pie chart above represents the population of the world, with slices for the 10 most populous countries. As can be seen, over half the world's population lives in the five most populous countries, while some five-eighths of all humanity lives in the Top 10.

The remainder – 38 percent of all the people on earth – are shoehorned into what the chart blithely labels "Other," i.e., the remaining 200-odd countries and dependencies. That modest three-eighths slice is all the more amazing when one realizes that it includes, among other places, all of the Western Hemisphere (except for the United States and Brazil), plus all of Africa (except for Nigeria), Southeast Asia (except for Indonesia), and every country of Europe.

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'A Gray Land in a Red Ocean'?

Madagascar, an island nation of 11.6 million people, is located in the Indian Ocean 250 miles east of Mozambique. A little smaller than Texas, it calls itself "the red island in the blue sea." Red refers not to the government – Marxist though it is – but to the fertile soil that once made Madagascar not only the world's largest per capita consumer of rice but also a major exporter.

Unfortunately, the country is on the way to becoming a gray land in a red ocean. Population pressure, deforestation, and the decay of the island's irrigation system are leading to erosion which has already washed many tons of rich, red earth out to sea, leaving nothing but bare rock behind.

Madagascar's population, with a crude birth rate of 46 births per 1,000 population and a crude death rate of 15 deaths per 1,000 population, is growing very rapidly. At the current rate of 3.1 percent per year, it could double in the next 22 years. The total fertility rate (TFR) is estimated to be 6.6 children per woman. Infant mortality is very high – 110 deaths per 1,000 live births – and life expectancy at birth only 53 years.

Land is not the only thing eroding in Madagascar. The country's economy has declined steadily since 1970; the current per capita income of $200 per year is less than half of what it was then. Agricultural production, the mainstay of the economy, has not kept up with population growth and in 1986, 106,000 metric tons of rice had to be imported.

The loss of Madagascar's forests is also a tragedy for the world. Unique biological treasures are being lost. Because of its geographic isolation – the island broke away from the coast of Africa 160 million years ago – plants and animals evolved along paths different from the rest of Africa. The most notable examples are the seven species of baobab trees, two-thirds of the world's chameleon species, and the 40-odd varieties of lemurs, monkey-like prosimians which depend on Madagascar's vanishing forests.

Starting in the mid-1980s, the government has initiated a series of policy reforms aimed at tapping the country's considerable economic promise and getting it back on the road to sustainable development. In addition, Madagascar has caught the attention of the world's environmentalists and aid donors.

LAUP Pittel

One challenge facing Madagascar: Farmland is being washed away.

Population Policy Development

Among the major initiatives is the development of a national population policy. As recently as the 1984 Population Conference in Mexico City, the government's position was that population growth per se was not a problem and that economic development would restore any imbalance between population growth and the economy.

Given the continuing economic crisis, the government has since modified its position. Beginning with a national population and development conference in 1987, the government of Madagascar, with financial help from UNFPA and several USAID contractors (including PRB's IMPACT Project), has been conducting research about population/development linkages and preparing a draft population policy document based on the research findings. By August of this year, if all goes according to schedule, an official policy will have been signed by President Didier Ratsiraka and voted into law by the Parliament.

The population policy is being prepared as a background document for the next five-year plan, which will begin in 1991. Its basic goal rests in "the amelioration of the quality of life of the [Madagascan] people by the realization of an equilibrium between population growth and economic growth." The policy covers fertility, mortality, and migration, particularly rural exodus and regional disparities, and offers sectoral recommendations. Specific demographic targets and implementation strategies will be developed later.

Three government agencies have been important actors in the policy development process: (a) the Population and Development Unit of the Planning Directorate in the Office of the Presidency, (b) the Ministry of Population, Social Condition, Youth and Sports and (c) the Parliamentary Committee, for Population and Development.

The Population Unit is the technical side which carried out 13 sectoral studies for presentation to an interministerial technical committee. The studies, and resulting committee recommendations, form the substantive base for the population policy. On the political side, the Ministry of Popu-

Continued on next page

'A Gray Land'?

Continued from previous page

lation has the mandate to develop the final policy document, present it to the government and implement the policy once it has been signed. The Parliamentarians have played a key awareness-raising role, informing other members of Parliament and their constituents about the importance of population growth for development. The Parliamentarians are also planning to introduce legislation to overturn a 1920s French law still on the books which prohibits the distribution of contraceptives. Private sector organizations have also participated, primarily Madagascar's IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation) affiliate, Fianakaviana Sambatra (FISA), which means Happy Family in Malagash. FISA has conducted a series of population seminars for members of the press and religious leaders.

Madagascar is not unique in Africa because of its population policy. As many as 30 countries throughout the continent are currently at some stage of policy development. However, the way Madagascar has chosen to go about the process does have some unique features. First, the policy is based strictly on up-to-date research, conducted for the purpose of the policy. Second, all branches of government are included in the policy development process through the interministerial technical committee. Third, the committee's recommendations were circulated throughout the country with evaluation questionnaires so that local leaders could be informed and feel part of the process. Fourth, the private sector has been an invited and willing participant.

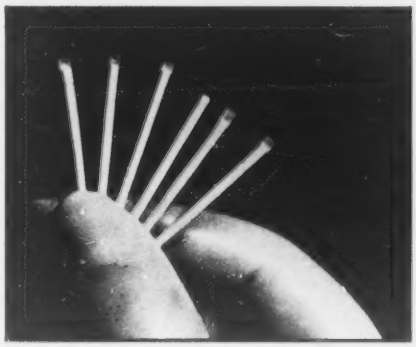
Madagascar's biggest population policy challenge is yet to come – implementing the policy. The health care system is weak and the government does not yet deliver any family planning services. Only FISA and one or two other private health care organizations have family planning clinics. Contraceptive prevalence is estimated to be as low as 3 percent. In addition, the government of President Ratsiraka is currently being challenged. He won a presidential election held on March 28, 1989, but his victory is being disputed in the streets. Riots in mid-April left several people dead and dozens wounded. The political situation is not likely to calm down until after the Parliamentary elections scheduled for May 28. Nonetheless, the technical staff in the government are committed to the policy process and believe that having a successful population policy is essential for Madagascar's development.

– N.Y.

Norplant Implant Now a Step Closer to U.S. Use

Already in regular use in 12 countries, the Norplant contraceptive implant may become available in the U.S. within a year.

The innovative birth-control method cleared a major hurdle April 27, 1989, when an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended the agency approve it for sale. This recommendation sets the stage for a final and favorable FDA decision permitting Norplant distribution, expected within a few months.



The Population Council

Six rods = five years

Developed by the nonprofit Population Council, Norplant consists of six silicone-rubber rods inserted beneath the skin of a woman's arm in a minor surgical procedure. The rods, each about the size of a matchstick (34 mm long and 2.4 mm wide), contain low levels of a synthetic progestin, which is gradually released into the bloodstream. The rods are designed to remain in place and effectively protect a woman from pregnancy for up to five years, at which time they are removed in a similar surgical procedure. The contraceptive may be removed, and fertility restored, at any time. A 4-mm-long incision is made in the skin for insertion and removal; a local anesthetic is required for both procedures.

The progestin employed in Norplant is the same as that used in combined oral contraceptives. One of its significant features is that it delivers the progestin directly into the bloodstream by diffusing it continuously in low doses directly through the walls of the enclosing plastic rod. This automatic method requires no action on the part of the user.

Except for improved barrier methods such as contraceptive sponges and cervical caps, the 1980s have not seen any improvements or additions in the U.S. contraceptive arsenal. Approval for injectable contraceptives remains a long way off, and "morning-after" pills have met political as well as development barriers. Spurred by fears of litigation, the pharmaceutical industry has cut back on contraceptive research, and withdrawn all intrauterine device (IUD) brands but one from market. (The sole remaining IUD manufacturer requires users to sign a 20-page waiver form.)

The perfect contraceptive (i.e., perfectly safe, effective, convenient, long-lasting, inexpensive, and reversible) is still far from realization. All contraceptives thus far developed fall short of this ideal, and Norplant is no exception. The device decreases in effectiveness for women weighing more than 150 pounds. Its side effects include those of oral contraceptives, and bleeding irregularities such as prolonged menses and spotting between periods. About 20-25 percent of women using Norplant in tests discontinued use because of irregular menstrual bleeding. Given both its delivery advantages and its side effects, how popular it will become is hard to assess, and will be an issue of interest in the coming year.

– A.H.

SURVEY REPORT

Zimbabwe

Contraceptive prevalence in Zimbabwe is one of the highest in all of sub-Saharan Africa. According to preliminary results from the 1988 Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), 43 percent of married women are currently using a method of contraception. Of these, 36 percent are using modern methods and 7 percent use traditional methods.

This continues the trend noted in previous surveys of increasing use of contraception, with a greater proportion of women opting to use modern methods over traditional methods.

Recognition is also high; 96 percent of all women have heard of at least one method of contraception. This represents an increase of 9 percent from the 1984 Zimbabwe Reproductive Health Survey (ZRHS). The pill is most widely recognized (94 percent), followed by the condom (77 percent), withdrawal (63 percent), injection (62 percent), and IUD (52 percent). Despite knowledge of several methods, 72 percent of married women practicing contraception are using the pill. Withdrawal is the second most prevalent method, accounting for 12 percent of current use among married women.

5.7 Children

Most women who have heard of a method stated that they knew where to obtain it. The majority of supply method users (pill, condom, diaphragm) obtain their method through government hospitals or clinics, or through the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council clinics or community-based distribution program. Women using clinic methods (IUD, sterilization, injection) primarily receive services from government facilities. However, only about one in five women recognized or knew a source for offering a diaphragm or for male sterilization.

Contraceptive prevalence increases as women's educational attainment levels increase. In Zimbabwe, more than half of current users of contraception have attended at least some secondary school. It is not surprising that the increase in use of contraception has been concurrent with recent gains in the education of women. The ZDHS found that over 28 percent of women aged 40-49 had no education, whereas only 2 percent of those aged 15-19 had never gone to school.

At current fertility rates, women in Zimbabwe will have 5.7 children by the end of their reproductive lives. This total fertility rate represents a decline from the 1984 TFR of 6.5 found by the ZRHS. However, further analysis of fertility trends await the final ZDHS report.

Few married women want to have a child in the next two years. Thirty-three percent of married women want no more children and 35 percent want to wait at least two years before having a child. In determining the unmet need for family planning, the ZDHS found that among married women not using contraception, 31 percent want no more children, and an additional 30 percent want to delay the next birth by at least two years. Thus, despite the relatively high level of current contraceptive use, one in three married women (if currently exposed to the risk of pregnancy) may be in need of family planning to achieve desired fertility. Although some women may be able to achieve the birth spacing they desire through breastfeeding, data on this practice await the final ZDHS report.

Medical attention during pregnancy and at the time of delivery is very common in Zimbabwe. For over 90 percent of recent births, mothers received some prenatal care from trained personnel. Similarly, 7 out of 10 recent births were attended by a doctor, trained nurse, or midwife.

Health and AIDS

Vaccination coverage of children under age 5 is high. Among children with health cards verified by the interviewer, more than 90 percent were immunized against the six major childhood diseases. Although one in six children under 5 years of age had experienced diarrhea during the two weeks prior to the survey, 70 percent had been treated with a sugar-salt-water solution, an inexpensive, effective treatment for diarrhea. Few children showed signs of poor current nutritional status, partly attributable to good agricultural harvests in 1987-1988.

The ZDHS assessed women's knowledge of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as an indicator of how well current efforts in AIDS education are succeeding. While 86 percent of women have heard of AIDS, and two-thirds of these women were able to identify multiple sexual partners and sex with a person with AIDS as routes of transmission, misconceptions are also common. Nineteen percent of the respondents thought that the virus could be transmitted through casual contact or by breathing the same air as a person with AIDS. Although there has been a 26-percent increase since the 1984 ZRHS in the percent of married women recognizing condoms, only 17 percent report ever having used a condom and only 1 percent are current users.

– B.S.

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

Hispanic Americans in the 1980s: Mainstream or Minority?

by William P. O'Hare

This Demographer's Page summarizes the findings of a new PRB Staff Working Paper, "Assimilation and Socioeconomic Advancement of Hispanics in the U.S." Information on how to order the Paper from PRB appears at the end of the article.

The image of America as a melting pot of different races and ethnic groups is a national icon. The successful assimilation of many past immigrant groups is a source of great pride. Most Americans probably hold to a belief that our system allows immigrants and ethnic minorities to move easily into the cultural mainstream. But the current Hispanic immigration wave should force us to take a new look at the American assimilation process.

Although the assimilation of many Europeans who arrived in this country in the 1800s and early in this century is virtually complete, that of Hispanics – today's fastest growing minority group -- is uncertain (between 1980 and 1988, the Hispanic population in the U.S. increased from 14.6 to 19.4 million).

Immigrants to Minority

The concept of assimilation (and its synonyms *acculturation, integration,* and *adaptation*), means different things to different people. Throughout this article we use the term to reflect socioeconomic parity. This use of the term does not address the extent to which immigrants and minorities adopt the behavior and psychological norms of the major culture. However, it does lend itself to statistical analyses using a variety of social and economic indicators.

The traditional immigration-adaptation models are of questionable utility where the Hispanic population is concerned. Earlier European immigrants already shared many cultural traits with the dominant native-born Anglo population. Further, the U.S. economic base and occupational structure have changed rather dramatically in the past two decades. These two factors may have a strong impact on immigrant mobility.

In many respects Hispanics may be regarded more as a minority group than as recent immigrants. Even though recent immigration from Latin America is a prominent source of Hispanic population growth in the U.S., many U.S. Hispanics were here before the Anglo settlers arrived on this continent.

> In 1988, Hispanic family income was 63 percent that of whites

Any study of Hispanics should attempt to differentiate between the various subgroups in the Hispanic population: those of Mexican origin, who currently make up 62 percent of the total; the Puerto Rican group (13 percent); those of Central or South American ancestry (12 percent); and those with Cuban roots (5 percent). Many people in these subgroups view the term "Hispanic" as an artificial or inexact designation forced upon them by outsiders. Furthermore, census data may be affected by differing interpretations and responses to potentially confusing questions.

With the proliferation of special education for Spanish speakers and a desire by some Hispanics to retain their cultural identity, one may question the degree to which Hispanics desire assimilation. A recent poll by *Hispanic Business* magazine indicates, however, that 80 percent of Hispanics desire greater assimilation into U.S. culture. Hence, if data suggest that Hispanics are poorly assimilated, it is unlikely that this is due to a lack of Hispanic interest.

How They Fare

The remainder of this article examines the status of Hispanic Americans according to several key indicators.

Income. The traditional model of immigrant assimilation suggests that U.S.-born Hispanics would have higher socioeconomic status characteristics than Hispanic immigrants to the U.S., and earlier immigrants, higher than later ones. Data from the 1980 Census show that in 1979 the median family income of pre-1960 immigrants was $17,013 (in constant 1979 dollars), whereas for those families arriving after 1975 it was $11,010, indicating that income has indeed increased with duration of residence. U.S.-born median family income was higher than foreign-born for most subgroups. However, in 1988, Hispanic family income was 63 percent that of whites, and while white family income grew by 1 percent in the previous 10 years (after adjusting for inflation), it fell by 8.5 percent for Hispanics. Per capita income for Hispanics has remained steady since 1973 at around 60 percent that of whites.

The overall evidence shows that family and individual income has increased with duration of U.S. residence, indicating a degree of assimilation. Though Hispanic median family income in 1988 was 12 percent higher than that of blacks, since 1979 it has fallen at a faster rate than blacks despite the fact that many Hispanics reside in the economically expanding

William P. O'Hare is Director of Policy Studies at PRB

states of Florida and California. It should be noted, however, that the large influx of recent immigrants, most of whom are young, is a factor in the declining family incomes of Hispanics.

Poverty and Welfare. In line with the income data, the poverty rate for Hispanics was 2.7 times that of non-Hispanic whites in 1987, and while it was not as high as the black poverty rate, the Hispanic rate increased more than the rates for whites or blacks in the 1980s. In 1980, poverty rates were lower among Hispanics who had been in the U.S. longer.

The absolute numbers of Hispanics receiving benefits from each of the five major welfare programs has risen dramatically in the 1980s, but the *rate* of welfare use changed little. The rate of use among poor Hispanics is higher than that of poor whites, but lower than that of poor blacks. This may mean that poor Hispanics are less likely than poor blacks to become trapped in the web of poverty and welfare dependency that characterizes a portion of the black population living in "underclass" neighborhoods.

It is impossible to draw any broad conclusions regarding welfare use because it is likely that the impact of low income and poverty is mitigated by other factors in determining Hispanic use of the welfare system.

Education. The percent of Hispanics who have four years or more of high school increased from 44 percent to 51 percent between 1980 and 1988, whereas the median school years completed increased from 10.8 to 12.0 in the same period. The rising level of education suggests that Hispanics are becoming more assimilated, though there are predictable variations across subgroups, with Mexicans and Puerto Ricans generally lagging behind other groups in educational attainment.

Occupation and Labor Force Participation. The labor force participation rate of Hispanic males stayed even at about 80 percent in the 1980s while that of Hispanic females increased slightly from 48 to 52 percent. Among the Hispanic subgroups, Puerto Ricans had the lowest rate of participation, 68.6 percent for males and 40.9 percent for females in 1988, perhaps due to their concentration in the economically declining New York City area. In 1980, the labor force participation rates were higher for immigrants than for U.S.-born Hispanics, some of whom have reached retirement age.

One can be a part of the labor force and still be without work. Unemployment for Hispanics increased during the economic recession between 1980 and 1982, but the Hispanic male unemployment rate fell from 16.3 percent in 1983 to 9.5 percent in 1988. The rate for females fell still more rapidly during the same period.

Fertility rates for Hispanic women are consistently higher

In the 1980s, Hispanics experienced a small but steady increase in the percentage employed in white-collar occupations, from 35 to 40 percent. Cubans are the most highly represented in white-collar professions (59 percent), followed by Puerto Ricans (46 percent) and Mexicans (35 percent). Whether a person was foreign- or native-born has a substantial impact on his or her likelihood of having a white-collar job, the former being much more highly represented in that category.

Homeownership. For most American families, equity in a home is by far their most significant financial asset. Homeownership also provides a measure of social status and links one to a community in a special way. In 1986, Hispanics were less likely than blacks or whites to be homeowners. About 67 percent of housing units occupied by whites in 1986 were owned, compared with 45 percent of units for blacks and 41 percent for Hispanics.

As with other indicators of socioeconomic status, Cubans enjoy the highest rate of homeownership, though they are still well below the comparable values for non-Hispanic whites.

Other Indicators of Assimilation. Besides the economic measures mentioned above, indicators such as fluency in English, intermarriage, and patterns of residence and fertility levels help us to assess degrees of assimilation.

In 1980, 6 percent of Hispanics said they spoke no English and 37 percent said they did not speak English very well. Not surprisingly, the percentage of Hispanics who speak no English is lower among native-born than among foreign-born Hispanics. Ability to speak English is related to income, as only 12 percent of English speakers versus 34 percent of those who cannot speak English are below the poverty line.

Though the rate of intermarriage among Hispanics is several times that of blacks, intermarriages still account for only one-sixth of all Hispanic marriages. The absolute numbers have increased by 26 percent between 1981 and 1987, reflecting significant growth in the Hispanic population.

As with other indicators, Hispanics trail far behind whites in the process of suburbanization, but are more advanced than blacks in this process. In 1980, Hispanics lived in less segregated neighborhoods than blacks, but over the 1970-1980 decade, blacks experienced a greater decline in the degree of residential segregation than did Hispanics.

Lastly, fertility rates among Hispanic women are consistently higher than those of non-Hispanic white women for all age groups. The total fertility rate (average lifetime births per woman) for foreign-born Hispanics in 1980 was 2.9, which is slightly more than 1 child greater than the rate of 1.8 for non-Hispanic whites.

Continued on next page

PRB's '21st Century' Project

In a number of ways, the 21st century has already arrived – at least in demographic terms. The U.S. labor force of the next century is already born (although not all in the United States); next century's first high school graduating class (as well as its dropouts) are already in grade school; and the elderly of the 21st century are well down paths that will determine their financial and health care needs for old age. Gaining a better understanding of the demographic trends that will affect the future will be one of the key components of public policymaking in the 1990s.

In order to assist elected officials and policymakers in understanding the implications of demographic change, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and Population Resource Center (PRC) have joined together in a new project, "America in the 21st Century." PRB will produce a series of seven briefing booklets that cover a broad array of public policy issues and questions, while PRC will conduct a series of briefings on these topics for leadership groups throughout the country. The project is supported through a grant from the Ford Foundation.

The first report in this new series, entitled *A Demographic Overview*, was officially released on June 9. It provides a brief summary of important demographic trends (for example, the aging of America, changing family and household patterns, changing race and ethnic composition, migration to the Sunbelt and to the suburbs, the distribution of income and wealth, etc.) and relates these changes to important public policy considerations. The remaining booklets in the series will be issued over the next nine months and will address the following policy areas:

- ***Human Resource Development*** focuses on education, work force needs, and retirement issues;
- ***Social and Economic Support Systems*** discusses the needs of the poor and other at-risk population groups, such as children, the disabled, and the elderly;
- ***Infrastructure Needs*** looks at prospects and problems related to the built environment (i.e., roads, airports, telecommunications, housing);
- ***Environmental Concerns*** focuses on issues of land use, air and water quality, and waste disposal;
- ***Governance and Politics*** looks at voters, political realignments, and managing the public sector;
- ***U.S. in a Changing World Economy*** examines issues of competitiveness and changing global markets.

The complete series of PRB's "America in the 21st Century" reports will be available in early 1990. In the meantime, copies of the *Overview* booklet can ordered from PRB. PRB members receive a 20-percent discount on these items.

– C.J.D.

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Demographer's Page

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Conclusion

The evidence for the assimilation of Hispanics into the mainstream American population is not entirely conclusive. Economic data suggest that Hispanics are falling behind the rest of the population in some important respects, notably income and poverty levels. However, it is important to keep in mind the degree to which the data are influenced by recent streams of migration from the economically less developed countries of Central and South America.

Copies of the 74-page Staff Working Paper "Assimilation and Socioeconomic Advancement of Hispanics in the U.S." by William P. O'Hare can be ordered from PRB, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB. Price postpaid is $5.00 ea.

China's Population

As background to the momentous events still unfolding in China, the size of the populations involved should be considered. As of mid-1989, China's total population was 1.104 billion. China's university-student population was 1.7 million, as of 1985, according to the 1986 *China Statistical Yearbook*.

By way of comparison, 370.7 million are collective and individual workers in rural areas, with another 128.1 million staff and workers in state-owned units elsewhere. About 3.2 million men are in the People's Liberation Army.

New Statistical Abstract Out

The federal government's answer to the *World Almanac*, the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* has been published by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce every year since 1878.

The Abstract is comprised of the most recent U.S. statistical data from public and private institutions. The latest, 1989, edition, hot off the presses, is a 2-inch-thick compendium of 1450 tables and charts.

Perhaps you'd like to know the number of Japanese tourists visiting the U.S. in 1987 as compared with 1986 (2.1 and 1.7 million, respectively)? Or military contracts awarded in 1987 ($158.8 billion)? If you have a hankering for more obscure facts, the Abstract is happy to oblige. For instance, of the 48,792,000 American smokers in 1985 (down 4.7 million from 1983), 27 percent smoke more than 25 cigarettes a day.

For information junkies, the Abstract is an invaluable reference that doubles as a guide to other statistical publications and resources. Each table cites its source, and many contain data not previously published.

– A. deS.

The 1989 *Statistical Abstract* is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from GPO bookstores in major cities. Prices: $26.00 paper, $32.00 clothbound.

Japan Graying At Rapid Pace

Japan, one of the world's greatest economic powers, is aging faster than any other developed country, according to PRB's new *Population Bulletin*, "The Graying of Japan," by Linda G. Martin.

In 1985 only 10 percent of the population was 65 and over, but by 2025 nearly one-quarter is expected to be over 65, making Japan one of the most "elderly" national populations on earth.

This aged age structure is the projected result of a low total fertility rate (1.7 lifetime births per woman) and to the world's highest national life expectancy (78 years).

With their high life expectancy, the Japanese potentially face long periods of retirement, as well as the possibility of long periods of disability. Although family support of the elderly is traditionally strong, the recent decline in coresidence with children is one indication that the way support is given may be changing. This issue is of particular concern to the government, which wants to avoid taking any greater responsibility for the elderly than is necessary.

The government is encouraging employers to provide more elderly employment opportunities at the same time it is trying to raise the eligibility age for receipt of public pensions.

Because of social changes, it is the government, not the family, that may be compelled to take a more active role in the care of the elderly. Just the same, Martin's findings suggest it is unlikely that population aging will lead to some catastrophic economic decline. Restructuring of the economy and continued overseas investment are likely to keep Japan's economy growing in the long run.

—A.H.

Copies of "The Graying of Japan," by Linda Martin, the 44-page *Population Bulletin* (Vol. 44, No. 2, July 1989), can be ordered from PRB, Circulation Dept., PO. Box 96152, Washington, DC 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB. Prices are: $7.90 per single copy; 2-10 copies, $6.50 ea.; 11-50 copies, $5.50 ea.; 51 or more, $4.00 ea. Orders of $50.00 or less must be prepaid. For U.S. orders, include $1.00 or 5 percent (whichever is greater) for postage and handling. For orders mailed outside the U.S., add 25 percent for postage and handling.

SOFTWHERE

Electromap World Atlas is a recently released software package that allows the user to combine graphics with text. The result is a menu-driven atlas, almanac, and factbook in one package.

Electromap contains 238 full-color, detailed, country, regional, topographic, and statistical maps. Each country is mapped individually as well as within its region and the world. A set of data accompanies each country map. This data is selected from a drop-down menu and appears in outline format in a window over the map. Forty-five topics are covered, including geography, people, government, economy, and communications. There are 14 statistical maps including the following: infant mortality, life expectancy, population density, and population growth.

The diskette version of Electromap requires a PC with 640K RAM, hard disk (the entire program takes up about 5.5 million bytes), and EGA or VGA card and color monitor. The CD-ROM version also requires 640K RAM, CD-ROM drive, MS-DOS 3.1 or later, and EGA or VGA card with color monitor; a mouse is optional.

Electromap can be purchased for $129.00 from: Electromap, Inc., P.O. Box 1153, Fayetteville, Ark. 72702-1153. Orders only (800) 336-6644. Questions can be directed to Richard Smith or Greg Mitchell (501) 442-2309.

—K.C.

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of April 1, 1989	248,163,000
As of April 1, 1989	245,728,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1038.

Estimated World Population:

As of July 1989	5,234,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

From the mid-1989 population on PRB's *1989 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: January 1989

	12 months ending with January					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1989	1988	1989	1988	1987	1986
Live births	3,919,000	3,827,000	15.9	15.7	15.5	15.7
Deaths	2,168,000	2,133,000	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7
Natural increase	1,751,000	1,694,000	7.1	6.9	6.8	7.0
Marriages	2,392,000	2,409,000	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.2
Divorces	1,189,000	1,158,000	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0
Infant deaths	38,600	38,000	9.9	10.0	10.4	10.6
Population base (in millions)			245.8	243.5	241.1	238.5

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 38, No. 1) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

TAKE A NUMBER

The Big N.M. The Census Bureau has released some updated figures on "megalopolises," those giant groupings of populations that often go under such monikers as "Bos-Wash." These giant clumpings of population centers are composed of "commuting clusters." The urban buildup from Boston to Washington, also known as the Northeastern Megalopolis, had a population of 42.5 million in 1987, says the Census Bureau, about one in six Americans. Within the N.M., the four major commuting clusters were New York-Philadelphia (27.8 million), Boston-Providence (6.2), Washington-Baltimore (6.1), and Harrisburg-York (1.0). As you can see, a megalopolis covers a lot of real estate. For a while there, the notion of the megalopolis seemed to be losing favor since many felt that linking Boston and Baltimore as though they were across town from each other was a bit odd. Perhaps Amtrak's popularization of the "Northeast Corridor" has helped give the concept a bit of a rebirth.

And so Forth Alert perusers may have noticed the new disk-shaped emblem (see below) which began adorning Census Bureau publications late in 1988. It's the Census '90 logo, developed within the Bureau, and it will appear on any Census publication remotely connected with the decennial census. The circular whirl represents the census as a continuous process, while the two profiles represent the bureau's dual perspective – toward the past and the future – and its mission to be "always centered on people."

CENSUS '90

– *C.H.*

The Population Clock

		WORLD	MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
Mid-1989 Population		5,233,824,000	1,206,047,000	4,027,777,000
Births per	Year	144,104,937	18,104,325	126,000,612
	Month	12,008,745	1,508,694	10,500,051
	Week	2,763,649	347,205	2,416,443
	Day	394,808	49,601	345,207
	Hour	16,450	2,067	14,384
	Minute	274	34	240
	Second	4.6	0.6	4.0
Deaths per	Year	51,028,787	11,231,794	39,796,993
	Month	4,252,399	935,983	3,316,416
	Week	978,632	215,404	763,228
	Day	139,805	30,772	109,033
	Hour	5,825	1,282	4,543
	Minute	97	21	76
	Second	1.6	0.4	1.3
Natural increase	Year	93,076,150	6,872,531	86,203,619
	Month	7,756,346	572,711	7,183,635
	Week	1,785,017	131,802	1,653,216
	Day	255,003	18,829	236,174
	Hour	10,625	785	9,841
	Minute	177	13	164
	Second	3.0	0.2	2.7
Infant deaths	Year	10,867,681	275,597	10,592,084
	Month	905,640	22,966	882,674
	Week	208,421	5,285	203,135
	Day	29,774	755	29,019
	Hour	1,241	31	1,209
	Minute	21	1	20
	Second	0.34	0.01	0.34

Source: Calculated from the 1989 *World Population Data Sheet*

ADDENDA

EIGHTY-TWO PER CENT OF THE POPULATION DOESN'T GET ENOUGH FIBRE IN ITS DIET!
TWO OUT OF THREE KIDS IN AMERICA CAN'T SPELL "CHOLESTEROL"!
NINETY-NINE PER CENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED SAID THEY HATED CARROTS!
STATISTICS ARE TOTALLY WRONG FIFTY-SIX PER CENT OF THE TIME!

THE STAT FAMILY

Drawing by M. Stevens. ©1989 *The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.*

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

FROM MANY STRANDS: Ethnic and Racial Groups in Contemporary America, by Stanley Lieberson and Mary Waters. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1988. $29.95 hardbound. ISBN 0-87154-543-8.

This is one in a series of monographs commissioned by the National Committee for Research on the 1980 Census. The book examines how well ethnic/racial ancestry explains outcomes on several key socioeconomic and demographic measures. While the book concerns itself with the white, "European" subgroups defined by the 1980 Census (which in 1980 accounted for 83 percent of the total population) it also describes some of the striking differences that appear when these groups are compared with the nonwhite, non-European population.

The analysis of ethnic ancestry relies on the ancestry question which appeared for the first time on the 1980 Census. The trend had been for the census to place decreasing value on information increasing white ethnic groups. Many of the problems attendant on a first study of a first-time survey question are attenuated by comparisons and evaluations of the census ancestry responses with results from the 1979 Current Population Survey and the National Opinion Research Corporation yearly General Social Survey.

Each of these sources relies on slightly different questions on ancestry, or on slightly different formulations of the same question. The book also relies in places on a more limited set of historical data giving the status of immigrants closer to the time they arrived.

The authors find that on most of the socioeconomic and demographic measures considered – spatial distribution, fertility, nuptiality, educational attainment, occupation and intermarriage – the major white ethnic groups tend to become less distinguishable over time. The authors are able to discern these longitudinal trends in part by observing differences between age cohorts that cannot be attributed to life cycle changes and by observing differences between ethnic groups who immigrated at different historical points.

While discrepancies in socioeconomic indices for these white ethnic groups do diminish with time, by pointing out where and to what extent differences do exist, the book portrays how ethnic identification remains an organizing social facet of contemporary American life. Differences between white ethnic groups are most strongly manifested in the spatial distribution of the population. A central theoretical concern of the book is the extent to which ethnic groups assimilate over time (melting pot) versus the extent to which they remain culturally distinct (pluralism). The authors point out that ancestry is not a stationary concept and that over the course of a lifespan, and as educational and marital status change, there exists a fair amount of fluctuation in the way ethnicity is conceived. Lieberson and Waters suggest that this fluctuation in ethnic-group definition is key to any theory of assimilation.

The authors note further that the proportion of respondents who list themselves as simply "white" despite an abundance of alternative choices of specific European ancestries and mixes of ancestries the census provides, are not distributed throughout the population with respect to several of the variables considered in the same manner as all whites. Lieberson and Waters suggest that these respondents may form a distinctive ethnic grouping.

This monograph deals with several interesting issues: Over which socioeconomic and demographic variables does white ethnic ancestry have predictive value? How do generational or immigration cycles work to reinforce or diminish differences in socioeconomic characteristics that are correlated with ethnic ancestry? Are respondents less likely to be aware of ethnic identity over time? Are there patterns in the history of white ethnic groups in America that can be generalized to newer, culturally distinct immigrants in this country?

– Taynia Mann

Books Received

CHOOSING A CONTRACEPTIVE: Method Choice in Asia and the United States, edited by Rodolfo Bulatao, James A. Palmore, and Sandra E. Ward. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1989.

THE 1851 CENSUS: A Guide to the National Sample of the Enumerators' Returns, by Michael Anderson. (On microfiche). Cambridge, England, and Alexandria, Va.: Chadwyck-Healey, 1988. 145 microfiche provide household census data for a 2-percent sample of the 1851 British census. $750.00.

ECONOMICS IN URBAN CONSERVATION, by Nathaniel Lichfield. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989. $54.50.

ISLANDS, ISLANDERS, AND THE WORLD: The Colonial and Postcolonial Experience of Eastern Fiji, by T.P. Bayliss-Smith, Richard Bedford, Harold Brookfield, and Marc Latham. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989. $42.50.

RESOURCES, POPULATION, AND THE PHILIPPINES' FUTURE, by Gareth Porter with Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr. (WRI Paper #4). Washington, D.C.: World Resources Institute, 1989. 68 pages.

WORKING WOMEN: Past, Present, Future. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs, 1989.

WorldAIDS magazine, No. 1 [magazine specializing in AIDS news], published by Panos Institute, Alexandria, Va. 12 pages.

SPOTLIGHT

TEXAS

Population (1988 est.): 16,841,000
Land area: 266,017 sq. miles
Births per 1,000 pop. (1987 est.): 17.8
Deaths per 1,000 pop. (1987 est.): 7.1
Infant mortality rate (1988 est.): 9.1
Persons per sq. mile (1985): 64.1
Population aged 65+ (1988): 9.9 percent of total population
Population aged 5-17 (1988): 20.8 percent of total population
Population aged under 5 (1988): 8.9 percent of total population
Capital: Austin

Tourism Div. Texas Dept. of Commerce

Texas has ridden a bumpy 1980s trail.

by Md. Nazrul Hoque and Steve H. Murdock

Texas, the Lone Star State, is the second largest state in the country by land area (after Alaska), and third largest in population. However, population density averages only 64.1 persons per square mile, ranging from 1,768.6 in Dallas County to 0.1 in Loving County. The eastern part of the state is more densely populated than the west and south.

Texas has historically had high rates of population growth, ranking sixth among the states in total population in 1960. By 1980, the only states having larger populations than Texas were California and New York, and Census Bureau projections suggest that Texas is likely to surpass New York sometime in the 1990s, being second only to California in 2000.

Population growth in Texas since 1980 has been characterized by an initial period of very rapid growth and extensive *in-migration* followed by a period of declining rates of population growth and *out-migration*. Net migration has been reversed, from a high of 2.9 percent in 1981-1982 to −0.5 percent in 1987-1988.

Numerous indicators suggest that population growth has now stabilized, however, and it appears likely that further data could show renewed growth in the next few years. Although 80 percent of the population resides in the urban areas, Texas ranks third nationally (after Pennsylvania and North Carolina) in the number of residents classified as rural.

Texas is a heterogeneous state. Its physical, cultural, and socioeconomic characteristics vary widely from north to south and east to west. In 1980, Texas had the second largest Hispanic population and third largest black population of any state in the country: 21 percent of the population was Hispanic and 12 percent was black. By 2025, it is estimated that roughly 50 percent of the population will be members of minority groups.

The 1970s brought economic prosperity to Texas. The state made significant progress in increasing its economic level and decreasing poverty. Median family income increased from $8,486 in 1970 to $19,620 in 1980. In 1980, unemployment was 4.0 percent compared to 7.1 percent for the nation, while the total level of employment increased by 51.8 percent between 1970 and 1980, compared to 21.9 percent for the nation as a whole. Over the same period, median years of education increased from 11.6 to 12.4.

The middle and latter 1980s have brought dramatic changes in Texas's economy as the prices for oil and gas, and agricultural products and exports have declined. As a result, the unemployment rate increased from 4.0 percent in 1980 to 7.7 percent in 1985. By July of 1987 it stood at 8.7 percent, 2.6 percentage points higher than the national rate of 6.1 percent. In 1985, approximately 16 percent of all Texans were classified as living below the poverty level; a 1-percent increase from the 1980 figure.

Since 1987 the state's economy has recovered substantially. In 1988, the unemployment rate was 7.3 percent and by March of 1989 unemployment was less than 7 percent. Moreover, state economic forecasters were indicating not only recovery of the state's economy but expansion. The state's demographic composition is changing and will become increasingly diverse in the coming decades.

Md. Nazrul Hoque is a research scientist and Steve H. Murdock is a professor and department head, at the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University.